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ABSTRACT

Noting that the reporting-to-writing route is sometimes circuitous and rough, although reliable, this essay collection considers the road from writing journalism to writing other literary genres such as fiction and poetry. The collection points out that newspapers have provided a proving ground for many aspiring authors, from Walt Whitman and Mark Twain through Stephen Crane and Theodore Dreiser to Sinclair Lewis and Ernest Hemingway. The book profiles many of these authors. According to the collection, gathering and writing news requires experiencing life and observing life and people, meeting the needs of demanding editors, and serving readers with work published at once and for people's civic use. The collection pinpoints the mid-19th century through the Great Depression as a "golden age" of journalism as a literary apprenticeship--jobs were available in print media, which were expanding with growth in population, transportation, and technology. Following an introduction by the editors, essays in the collection and their authors are, as follows: "William Kennedy" (Susanne Dumbleton); "John O'Hara" (R. Thomas Berner); "Martha Gellhorn" (Norma Green); "Jack London, Stephen Crane, Ernest Hemingway" (Ronald Weber); "Josephine Herbst" (Nora Ruth Roberts); "John Steinbeck" (Thomas Fensch); "Katherine Anne Porter" (Darlene Harbour Unrue); "William Allen White" (Michael Longinow); "Carl Sandburg at the 'Day Book'" (Mary Heveron-Smith); "Carl Sandburg at the 'Daily News'" (Mary Heveron-Smith); "Carl Sandburg at the 'Evening Mail'" (Martin Litvin); "Joel Chandler Harris" (Walter M. Brasch); and "Damon Runyon" (Guy Szuberla). (NKA)

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